

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04728 261432Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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O R 2613330Z JUNE 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2420
INFO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSAFE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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USEEC

USICA FOR VOA/PN, PGM/RC, PGM/PPE, EU

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SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA ON ECEVIT VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: TURKISH PRESS,
RADIO, AND TELEVISION HAVE GIVEN BROAD COVERAGE TO ECEVIT
VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. OVERALL IMPRESSION GIVEN PUBLIC
HAS BEEN POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH OPPOSITION PRESS AND POLITICIANS

HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DOWNPLAY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. IN ADDITION TO FACTUAL REPORTING, PRESS HAS COMMENTED ON FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND UNEXPECTED "SURPRISES". APPARENTLY REFLECTING ECEVIT'S OWN VIEW, SOME EDITORIALISTS HAVE NOTED THAT VISIT "BALANCES" EARLIER TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. ECEVIT VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION JUNE 21-25 RECEIVED EXTENSIVE MEDIA PLAY IN TURKEY, ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THAT GIVEN HIS U.S. TRIP. IN DAILY FRONT PAGE STORIES, THE PRESS FOLLOWED PUBLIC DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AND SPECULATED ON BEHIND-THE-SCENES ACTIONS. EDITORIALISTS, ALSO, HAVE GIVEN MAJOR ATTENTION TO THE VISIT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. MANY PAPERS HAVE CARRIED PRESS COMMENTARY FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION PAID TO GREEK AND AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS.

3. TENOR OF MEDIA REPORTING HAS BEEN POSITIVE. WHILE SUBSTANTIVE NEWS WAS NOTICEABLY LACKING DURING FIRST DAYS, FLURRY OF DOCUMENT SIGNING AT END OF MOSCOW PORTION OF TRIP AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED JUNE 25 HAVE HEIGHTENED SENSE THAT ECEVIT MADE HEADWAY IN IMPROVING TURKEY'S TIES WITH ITS SUPERPOWER NEIGHBOR. UPBEAT REPORTING OF VISIT REFLECTED IN ATMOSPHERICS PRESS CHOSE TO HIGHLIGHT, INCLUDING:
--REPORT THAT IN SPITE OF RECENT ILL HEALTH BREZHNEV RECEIVED ECEVIT;
--IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS WERE MORE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED;
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--COMMENTARY BY ABDI IPEKCI OF "MILLIYET" ON JUNE 23 THAT TURKS RECEIVED PLEASANT "SURPRISES" FROM THE SOVIETS ON DELINEATION OF BLACK SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF, CYPRUS, ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DISCUSSIONS, AND THE BLACK SEA FIR LINE (WHICH REPORTEDLY IS NOT SETTLED BUT CLOSE TO AGREEMENT IN LINE WITH TURKISH POSITION); AND

--REPORTING ON JUNE 26 OF ECEVIT'S RETURN TO TURKEY AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH EMPHASIZES FRIENDLY, COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE SHOWN IN MOSCOW AND SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO BE FORTHCOMING ON ECONOMIC ISSUES.

4. OPPOSITION REACTION TO THE VISIT GENERALLY HAS BEEN LIMITED TO CRITICISM OF STYLE RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE. CONSERVATIVE PRESS HAS BEEN RESTRAINED, WITH SHARPEST ATTACKS, LAUNCHED INITIALLY BY JUSTICE PARTY CHAIRMAN DEMIREL, AIMED AT ECEVIT'S "ONE-MAN SHOW" STYLE OF LEADERSHIP.

5. SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE COMPARED ECEVIT'S TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION WITH HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S. AND AGREED IN GENERAL THAT HE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN STRIKING A BALANCE WHILE IN MOSCOW. EDITORIALIST ABDI IPEKCI ON JUNE 26 WRITES THAT WHILE FLYING HOME ON JUNE 25 PRIMIN ECEVIT TOLD REPORTERS HE IS PLEASED HIS VISIT PRODUCED POSITIVE RESULTS LIKE THOSE

ACHIEVED IN WASHINGTON WITHOUT HIS HAVING TO MODIFY THE
LINE ADOPTED THERE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT
PROBABLY HAS HELPED ENHANCE ECEVIT'S IMAGE AS BOLD LEADER WHO IS
TAKING CHARGE OF TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY. SIGNING OF POLITICAL
DOCUMENT, WHICH DEMIREL FAILED TO CONCLUDE AS PRIME MINISTER,
HAS OFFERED CONTRAST READILY SEEN BY PUBLIC. WHILE REPORTING
OF THIS TRIP DID NOT SEEM TO DOMINATE PRESS TO SAME EXTENT
AS NEWS OF VISITS TO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, EFFECT ON
READERS MAY BE TO STRENGTHEN IMPRESSION OF A BALANCE BETWEEN
TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND U.S.S.R.
SPIERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
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